1. In your own words, what is sociology? What is the sociological imagination?  
   - Sociology is the study of how people interact, form groups, and create societies. It looks at things like culture, relationships, institutions and social rules that shape daily life.  
   - The sociological imagination is the ability to see connections between personal experiences and larger social forces. It helps understand how history, economics, and cultural norms influence the way people live and think.
2. Tell a short story of an experience in your own life that illustrates your definition of sociology. First, state your definition of sociology in one sentence. Then, tell your story. The story should clearly illustrate and align with your definition of sociology, and it should be long enough to do so. The story need not be restricted to the world of social media.  
   - Sociology is the study of how society shapes people’s experience, behaviours and opportunities.  
   - Story:  
   When I was in high school, two neighborhoods had very different schools. One well-funded and the other struggling with fewer resources. The richer school had better books, tech, and extracurriculars, while the other had crowded classrooms and outdated materials.  
   At first, I thought this was just about personal effort. Students in both schools could try hard and succeed. But later, I realized it wasn’t that simple. Bigger social forces like money, history, and government decisions play a role in education. Students from low-income areas often face more barriers that make success harder to achieve.  
   Sociology helped me see that people’s experiences aren’t just personal, they’re shaped by laws, economic gaps, and social expectations.
3. Find two people who you know, one who uses social media very frequently and one who never uses it (or uses it very infrequently). Conduct a 10-15-minute interview with each. Take notes during and after each interview (bullet points are recommended). Read and review your notes. Based on your notes, write a 1-page single-spaced page reflection explaining what you observed and learned from this experience. Use your sociological imagination (and, therefore, your conception of sociology) to guide your analysis. Submit all written work you do related to this prompt (notes, response, etc.).  
   -Interviewee 1: Social Media Addict (Alex, 25)

* Uses social media daily to stay updated, connect, and be entertained.
* Feels pressure to present a perfect version of themselves online.
* Worries about privacy, but finds it hard to control data.
* Thinks social media is a mix of helpful and exhausting, fun but mentally draining.
* Says quitting social media would be almost impossible since it's everywhere.

- Interviewee 2: Rare Social Media User (Jordan, 40)

* Uses social media rarely because they prefer face-to-face conversations.
* Thinks people are too focused on online approval rather than real-world interactions.
* Avoids social media due to privacy risks and online drama.
* Doesn’t feel disconnected. Stays informed through news and personal chats.
* Says they might use social media for work, but not personal life.

Reflection:  
These interviews show how social media shapes identity, relationships, and mental health. Alex sees it as necessary for connection, while Jordan avoids it to keep life simple and private.  
Through sociology, I see that age, lifestyle, and culture affect how people use social media. Some find it empowering, while others see it as time-consuming and stressful. This highlights the impact of technology on modern social behavior.

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.